



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

CYPERUS ERYTHORRHIZOS **RED-ROOT FLATSEGE**

Red-root Flatsedge is a grass-like annual that forms tufts of stout stems which are 10-70 cm high. Few leaves occur near the base of the plant; they are 2-9 mm wide. The flowers consist only of a pointed scale with a green, ca. 1.5 mm long midvein, that subtends a single stamen and ovary. The flowers are crowded opposite each other into cylindrical spikelets that are 1-4 cm long. These spikelets are clustered into elongate spikes on stalks arising from the top of the stem. The inflorescence is subtended by 3-5 long, leaf-like bracts that are as wide or wider than the leaves. The seed is 3-sided. Fruit mature in August.

CYPERUS RIVULARIS, *C. ACUMINATUS* and *C. ARISTATUS* are also found along rivers, but have globose clusters on a short central stalk rather than open, elongate spikes with a distinct central stalk.